DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 380 552 CE 068 374

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TITLE Philosophical Foundations of Adult Education. Second Edition.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-89464-918-3
PUB DATE 95
NOTE 253p.
AVAILABLE FROM Krieger Publishing Co., P.O. Box 9542, Melbourne, FL 32902.
PUB TYPE Books (010)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS *Adult Education; Behaviorism; *Educational Change; Educational History; *Educational Philosophy; *Educational Principles; *Educational Trends; Humanistic Education; Humanization; Liberalism; Literature Reviews; Political Socialization; *Role of Education; Trend Analysis
IDENTIFIERS Analytic Philosophy; Freire (Paulo); Radicalism; Skinner (B F); Watson (John B)

ABSTRACT

This book examines the philosophical foundations of adult education (AE). The following topics are discussed: philosophy of AE (philosophy and action in theory and practice and philosophy for adult educators); liberal AE (historical development, liberal education and the educated person, broad scope, process, liberal education of adults, Great Books program, evaluation of adult liberal education); progressive AE (historical perspective, progressive education and the AE movement, basic principles, contemporary programs inspired by progressive AE, assessment of progressive AE); behaviorist AE (antecedents of 20th-century behaviorism, behaviorism's founder John B. Watson, B. F. Skinner and modern behaviorism, behavioral objectives, competency-based education and AE, program planning in AE, instructional methods); humanistic AE (humanism in historical context, basic assumptions of humanistic philosophy, general and adult humanistic education, assessment); radical AE (historical roots; Paulo Freire's life, works, and philosophical and educational principles; theory and practice in radical AE, the deschooling movement and AE); analytical philosophy of AE (historical background, philosophy as conceptual or linguistic analysis, conceptual analysis in AE, assessment); and philosophy of AE in the past and future. The final chapter is a bibliographic essay on the philosophy of AE from 1980 through 1994, which includes 92 references. Most of the other chapters include substantial bibliographies. (MN)

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